

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE JUNE 20, 2002 MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Gary Hines
Councillor Gary Meade
Councillor Dawn Sloane (2:30 p.m.)

STAFF: Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Jim Bauld, Diversion Planning Coordinator
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Collection & Processing Coordinator
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Smith that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 16, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hines that the minutes of May 16, 2002 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Jeff Clements, OMG Atlantic

Mr. Clements referred to the June 11, 2002 report prepared by staff regarding the proposal OMG Atlantic had made at the last meeting of the Committee. Mr. Clements clarified the following:

- OMG Atlantic has submitted a secondary proposal which responds to comments by Waste Management and Streets and Roads staff that one of the key barriers to OMG's proposal is the cost to empty the receptacles. OMG Atlantic has agreed to assume responsibility to empty the receptacles and have asked for some changes which would serve to protect OMG from a financial perspective.
- OMG would be entitled to all advertising revenue and would pay a fee of \$5.000 per box to the HRM, and provided up to 5% of unsold advertising space.
- HRM would waive all applicable licensing and registration fees

Mr Clements advised that OMG has spoken with Carol Macomber and determined they would not put the receptacles anywhere in the Capital District until such time as Ms. Macomber's report comes to Council.

Mr. Clements went on to note that these receptacles are up in running in other cities. Referring to budget implications, Mr. Clements noted that there are no negative implications, but there are positive financial implications. OMG's proposal would reduce the area which has to be serviced, replacement of receptacles will be OMG's responsibility rather than HRM's (HRM would replace existing receptacles), and 5% of advertising space will be available to HRM.

In conclusion, Mr. Clements indicated that OMG would like to run a pilot project outside the Capital District area to determine consumer attitudes and fine tune the process.

The Committee agreed to consider agenda item 4.1 OMG Atlantic Waste Receptacles Proposal at this time.

4.1 OMG Atlantic Waste Receptacle Proposal

- A staff report dated June 11, 2002 submitted by Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste Resources was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bauld introduced Mr. Phil Cochrane, Manager, Streets and Roads and Mr. Phil Francis, Manager, Rights of Way noting that these two business areas have input to the proposal before the Committee. Mr. Bauld briefly reviewed the June 11, 2002 report noting that the Solid Waste role was to facilitate the review of the proposal as governance over streets and/or sidewalks resides elsewhere. Addressing the matter of diversion, Mr. Bauld noted that any beverage container, newspaper or cardboard from HRM garbage receptacles which makes its way to Otter Lake is recovered. Mr. Bauld indicated that this recovery plan, not available or similar in other cities, explains the difference in diversion potential. Mr. Bauld noted that in terms of budget implications, staff has experienced difficulty with servicing time lines with other contractors and noted that the fear is that Public Works would be pressed into correcting the situation and incurring cost.

In conclusion, Mr. Bauld pointed out that the recommendation is to incorporate this proposal in the urban street-scape design standard project as part of the Capital District Task Force public amenities plan.

Mr. Clements clarified that OMG believes that a proper pilot project could be implemented outside the Capital District. This pilot project would provide the necessary answers. Mr. Clements noted, however, that OMG would be looking to locate in the Capital District eventually.

Mr. Phil Cochrane, Manager, Streets and Roads, noted that the new proposal addressed his concerns with regard to costs. Concerns relating to HRM having to, on occasion, respond to unsightly situations still exist. Mr. Cochrane went on to review initiatives which have been instituted this spring to improve the way HRM deals with its litter, to further educate residents on using HRM's existing litter baskets and the fact that everything which goes into the litter basket is processed at Otter Lake. Mr. Cochrane indicated that he was unsure of what HRM would gain with these new receptacles.

Mr. Cochrane indicated that he has seen these particular receptacles in Toronto and observed the following:

- They generally look good
- Are located on wide sidewalks
- Do not tend to attract graffiti, but seemed to be a number of posters on the receptacle
- Oversize items did not get in the box and this overflow is under the box
- Receptacles were 'gummed up' where located in areas of heavy food garbage

In conclusion, Mr. Cochrane noted that with the improvements introduced this year, staff was not sure that moving forward with this proposal would be to HRM's advantage.

Mr. Phil Francis, Manager, Rights of Way, noting that if this proposal were to be approved a permit would be issued for each and every location. He went on to note that demands are increasing for use of the right of way. HRM must try to manage the right of way in the best way possible. The sidewalks are crowded now and it will be a challenge to find areas in which these rather large boxes can be located so as not to interfere with other uses.

In response to a question from Councillor Hines, Mr. Clements indicated that OMG envisioned a pilot project of 30-50 receptacles in a local area. OMG believes that sufficient data could be collected in a three month period.

A brief discussion ensued and it was **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Smith that the proposal from OMG Atlantic for the installation of three-tier (compartment) receptacles along streets in the downtown core of HRM, be referred to the Capital District Task Force for consideration as part of their public amenities plan for the urban street-scape design project.**

Councillor Meade requested that this matter be referred to the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee for comment.

The **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (CONT'D)

Mr. Barry Zwicker, Wallace MacDonald

Mr. Zwicker addressed the Committee expressing full support for the amendment to By-law S-600 regarding the exportation of waste outside of HRM. Mr. Zwicker commented that C&D waste is included in solid waste and the amendment should be clear that it is included.

Mr. Smith noted that when he became aware of this concern earlier today, he had requested a comment from the Solicitor. Mr. Smith indicated that the Solicitor had advised that an addition could be made to specifically include C&D waste.

Mr. Zwicker, referring to the amendments to the MPS and LUB presently before Council with regard to C&D processing, transfer and disposal facilities, noted that these facilities were critical to the success of HRM's Solid Waste Management Strategy. He noted that the initial presentation by staff on these amendments was confusing and suggested that this was one of the reasons that the matter had been deferred. He commented that the deferral of this matter was frustrating and disappointing for the industry. Mr. Zwicker made a plea to Committee members that they provide leadership at Council and move forward with a decision. He commented that if a decision is not made, stockpiles will continue to grow and the woods will continue to be dumping sites. Mr. Zwicker again urged that Council make a decision and move on with the necessary public hearings.

The Chair, in response, indicated that moving forward was the objective of the Committee and further that the Committee fully supported the location of a C&D disposal site.

A discussion regarding the definition of solid waste in the proposed amendment ensued and it was **MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Sloane that all streams of solid waste be included in the definition portion of the proposed amendment. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Enviro Waste

Mr. Taylor, referring to the Committee's motion regarding inclusion of all streams of solid waste, suggested that including recyclables in the definition would in effect put the private recyclers out of business. He noted, for example, that his company collects cardboard here and sells it outside of HRM. The market may very well be outside HRM for other recyclable materials.

Councillor Hines noted that it was not his intent to impact existing businesses, but merely to have HRM identify the stream. **The Councillor, with the agreement from the Committee, requested staff to look at excluding recyclables in the definition.**

Mr. Joe Warwick, Canadian Waste

Mr. Warwick addressed the Committee representing the newly formed Solid Waste Association of Nova Scotia (SWANS) and briefly reviewed the purpose of the Association. The Association will function as an information/resource to this Committee. The Association would like to take part in the decision making of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Providing further insight to the role of the Association, Mr. Warwick read the mission statement. In conclusion, Mr. Warwick indicated that SWANS wanted to work cooperatively with this committee and staff to develop solutions for all problems. Mr. Warwick thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Hugh Pullen

The Committee agreed to deal with agenda item **4.2 Peninsula South Community Association Questions** at this time. An information report dated June 11, 2002 submitted by Brian Smith, Director of Solid Waste, was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Pullen referred to the information report noting that it addressed the size of carts. He noted that in his area there were a substantial number of people contained within a suppressed area and suggested that ½ size carts would be more serviceable. Mr. Pullen went on to request that, once the students have returned, Solid Waste staff attend a meeting of the Peninsula South Community Association, to which staff agreed. Mr. Pullen noted that the population of the area doubles with the return of the students. Many of these students come from outside HRM and Nova Scotia. They are not familiar with the waste management strategy for HRM and it takes some time for them to become educated. Mr. Pullen indicated that he believed the system worked well and personally found it to 'work like a charm'.

Mr. Bauld noted that a number of brochures were available today, as well as, a sample of an advertisement regarding green carts that would be appearing in 95 transit buses within the next week. He noted that a similar size advertisement regarding handling of newspapers would appear in the other 95 transit buses.

Councillor Smith noted that Council has requested a change to the Unsightly Premises legislation which would allow for less than 30 days notice to clean up garbage. The intent is to give 24 hours notice to the property owner to clean up the garbage. Councillor Smith commented that he believed this would be a step forward to resolving these situations.

A brief discussion ensued with **the Committee requesting that Mr. Bauld take to the Bylaw Rationalization Committee the need to coordinate in one Bylaw the unsightly, health and fire regulations as they relate to solid waste. The intent is to identify gaps and to determine what tools are available.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 OMG Atlantic Waste Receptacle Proposal

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

4.2 Peninsula South Community Association Questions

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. (See above)

5. OPERATIONS REPORT

- The 'Mass Balance' document for the period April 1, 2002 to May 32, 2002 was distributed to members of the Committee. In addition, April and May Operations Activities, Highlights was also distributed.

Ms. Lewis reviewed the operational statistics and highlights for April and May as distributed.

Councillor Rankin, noting that 0 tolerance for contaminants program being instituted for commercial operations, asked what level of tolerance is in place for residential customers. The Councillor requested that staff prepare a report responding to this question.

A further discussion ensued around efforts being made to address residential contamination.

Councillor Rankin requested a summary of the Mass Balance to the end of May, 2002 the purpose of which is to determine any trends.

In response to a question from Councillor Smith, Mr. Bauld advised that the process to introduce composting in apartment buildings is on going.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Waste Resources Future Study

- A staff report dated May 13, 2002 submitted by Brian T. Smith was before the Committee for consideration.

Mr. Smith briefly reviewed the staff report noting that it was a two phase study the first being a detailed review of residential collection contracts, and the second phase being an overall waste resources system review. A copy of Mr. Smith's presentation is on file.

6.2 Introduction of New Dairy Containers - Verbal

Mr. Bauld provided a brief overview of the events to date noting that a stewardship agreement has been in place since February, 2000. Under this agreement every municipality tracks their costs relating to the recycling of dairy containers. These costs are presented annually to the Department Environment and Labour for a joint review with the Dairy Association. Last year HRM received a cheque for \$143,000 to cover the cost of the recycling of dairy containers in HRM.

Mr. Bauld noted that the introduction of new containers raises a number of issues. Firstly, it came as a surprise to everyone involved. There appears to be disharmony within the

dairy industry. Mr. Bauld indicated that if there is additional costs for processing of this new packaging, these will be included in the costs submitted to the Department of Environment and Labour for reimbursement.

A brief discussion of the caps and other non recyclable portions of the new packaging ensued. In response to a question from Councillor Rankin regarding what advice Solid Waste staff would give to members of the public regarding the separation of the caps, Mr. Bauld noted that Solid Waste has always had a 'caps off' policy and noted that caps should be disposed of in mixed waste for the time being.

6.3 Update on LDPE and Plastics Recycling/Marketing

Mr. Bauld advised that there has been ups and downs in the low density polyethylene (LPDE) plastic bag market. Solid Waste has been working with the Environment and Plastic Institute of Canada (EPIC) and have a preliminary partnership with them. EPIC will be assisting HRM in marketing plastic. EPIC will assist with education on how to properly recycle plastic bags. EPIC has provided consultant services and development costs for radio, TV and print ads.

7. ADDED ITEMS - None

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in late August. Date will be confirmed at a later time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Assistant Municipal Clerk